

Mariëtte BÖLKENBAAS et al.

--16. (New) The method according to Claim 4, wherein the degree of substitution of carboxymethyl groups is less than 0.2.--

a3  
--17. (New) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the fructan is inulin.--

--18. (New) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the fructan is inulin.--

--19. (New) The method according to Claim 4, wherein the fructan is inulin.--

--20. (New) The fructan of claim 10, having a solubility in water of at least 2 g/l.--

#### R E M A R K S

The above changes in the claims merely place this national phase application in the same condition as it was during Chapter II of the international phase, with the multiple dependencies being removed. Following entry of this amendment by substitution of the pages, only claims 1-20

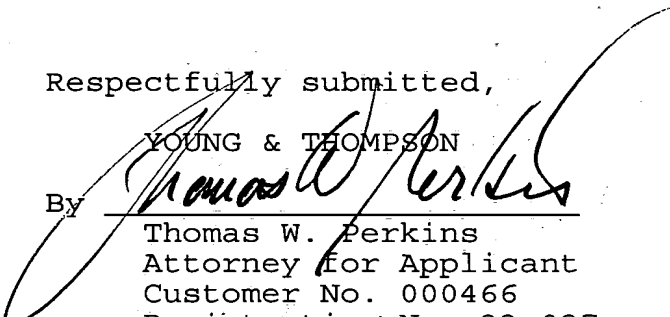
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remain pending in this application. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

Respectfully submitted,

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"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"

Claims 1-7 and 10 have been amended as follows:

1. ~~Use of 1.~~ (Amended) A method of activating bleach comprising the step of combining with the bleach a partially acylated fructan having a degree of substitution with acyl groups of 0.4-2.5 and a degree of substitution of less than 0.5 with other substituents ~~as a bleach activator.~~

2. ~~Use 2.~~ (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the fructan is acylated with C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> acyl groups.

3. ~~Use 3.~~ (Amended) The method according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the fructan is acylated with a degree of substitution of 0.6-1.8.

4. ~~Use 4.~~ (Amended) The method according to ~~one of Claims 1-3,~~ Claim 1, wherein the fructan has an average chain length of 3-60, in particular 4-30.

5. ~~Use 5.~~ (Amended) The method according to ~~one of Claims 1-4,~~ Claim 1, wherein the degree of substitution of carboxymethyl groups is less than 0.2.

6. ~~Use 6.~~ (Amended) The method according to ~~one of Claims 1-5,~~ Claim 1, wherein the fructan is inulin.

7. ~~Use 7.~~ (Amended) The method according to ~~one of Claims 1-6,~~ Claim 1, wherein the fructan is acylated with ~~at least one of~~ acetyl and/or propionyl groups.

10. ~~(Amended)~~ Partially acetylated and/or propionylated fructan produced by acylation of the fructan or derivative thereof with a reactive acyl derivative of a acetic and/or propionic acid, characterised in that the obtainable using the method according to Claim 8 or 9, which acylation is carried out in an aqueous medium at a pH of between 7 and 9, wherein the fructan has solubility in water of at least 1g/l, in particular of at least 2 g/l.

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## Claims

1. Use of a partially acylated fructan having a degree of substitution with acyl groups of 0.4 - 2.5 and a degree of substitution of less than 0.5 with other substituents as a bleach activator.
2. Use according to Claim 1, wherein the fructan is acylated with C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> acyl groups.
3. Use according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the fructan is acylated with a degree of substitution of 0.6 - 1.8.
4. Use according to one of Claims 1 - 3, wherein the fructan has an average chain length of 3 - 60, in particular 4 - 30.
5. Use according to one of Claims 1 - 4, wherein the degree of substitution of carboxymethyl groups is less than 0.2.
6. Use according to one of Claims 1 - 5, wherein the fructan is inulin.
7. Use according to one of Claims 1 - 6, wherein the fructan is acylated with acetyl and/or propionyl groups.
8. A process of producing an acetylated and/or propionylated fructan or fructan derivative by acylation of the fructan or derivative thereof with a reactive acyl derivative of acetic and/or propionic acid, characterised in that the acylation is carried out in an aqueous medium at a pH of between 7 and 9.
9. A process according to Claim 8, characterised in that the acylation is carried out at a temperature of between 0 and 40 °C.
10. Partially acetylated and/or propionylated fructan obtainable using the method according to Claim 8 or 9, which has a solubility in water of at least 1 g/l, in particular of at least 2 g/l.